

# 2011-2012 - Dutch Art Institute

## *practice-theatre*

**Course tutor:** Ian White

**Coordination:** Tanja Baudoin

**Guest tutors:** Emma Hedditch, Jimmy Robert, and Mirjam van Imschoot.

**Students:** Mercedes Azpilicueta, Rosie Heinrich, Anna Hoetjes, Eden Mitsenmacher Lara Morais, Ane Østrem, Eric Philippoz, Vanja Smiljanic, Marija Sujica, Witta Tjan, Sander Uitdehaag, and Mariana Zamarbide.

### **Short description**

practice-theatre was a project tutored by Ian White in collaboration with Emma Hedditch, Jimmy Robert and Myriam van Imschoot. practice-theatre was a cumulative project that sought to explore and question, through performance, the various aspects of what the place of theatre means to us and how it might be used in our work. Each month the project expanded and enacted ideas around a different aspect of theatre – with what’s done one month mapping onto the next – to consider the positions from which we speak, how we act, and what, through different frames, speaking and action might be.

The course included a trip to Senegal in May with the entire Dutch Art Institute student body and faculty, including tutor Ian White. After several days in Dakar, the practice-theatre group spent a week at the Ecole des Sables, a dance company and school for African dance in the village Toubab Dialaw. They used the facilities to create and rehearse a new piece. This resulted in the performance ‘Routine’, which was first presented in public space in Dakar, hosted by Raw Material Company in conjunction with presentations of other DAI projects. A second iteration of ‘Routine’ was presented in Arnhem in July, after a two-day workshop in Arnhem with tutors Ian White and Jimmy Robert.

The course included:

- Monthly meetings at the Dutch Art Institute in Arnhem;
- Visits to the City hall and City theatre (Stadsschouwburg) in Arnhem;
- Visit to If I Can't Dance's presentation of Guy de Cointet's ‘Five Sisters’ at Frascati Theatre in Amsterdam (28 & 29-10-11)
- Visit to If I Can't Dance's programme Class of Masters with Matt Mullican, Nicole Beutler, Vanessa Desclaux, Suchan Kinoshita, Joachim Robbrecht, and Johan Simons at Frascati Theatre in Amsterdam (22 & 23-01-12);
- Trip to Dakar, Senegal and a stay at Ecole des Sables in the village of Toubab Dialaw.

### **Syllabus**

- Roland Barthes, *On Racine*, section on the Chamber, University of California Press, 1992.
- Aristotle, *Poetics*, Penguin Books, 1997.

- Augusto Boal, *Theatre of the Oppressed*, section on Aristotle's Coercive System of Tragedy, Theatre Communications Group, 1993.
- Gertrude Stein, 'Plays', in: *Gertrude Stein, Writings and Lectures, 1911-1945*, Peter Owen, 1967.
- Claire Bishop, *Unhappy Days in the Art World? De-Skilling Theatre, Re-Skilling Performance, Brooklyn Rail*, 2011.
- Yvonne Rainer, *Poems*, Badlands Unlimited, 2011.
- Susan Sontag, *Notes on Camp*, Penguin, 2018.
- Film: 'Paris Is Burning', 1990, by Jennie Livingstone.
- Film: 'Hail the New Puritan', 1987, by Charles Atlas & Michael Clark.

### **Documentation**

- See [Google Drive folder](#) for pictures and other materials

### **Student materials**

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### **Links to other sites**

- [Course description on DAI website](#)
- Blog [practice-theatre by students and tutors](#)
- Video-documentation of 'Routine' in Dakar, [pt 1](#) and [pt 2](#). Password: practicetheater
- ['Routine' performance announcement on DAI website](#)
- About tutor Ian White (1971-2013): [Ian White Estate](#) and his [Lives of Performers blog](#)